

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 02908 221440Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00
/109 W

-----116518 221445Z /50

O R 221424Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3386
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD
SUBJECT: RUBBER -- UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON
RUBBER, FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3

REF: STATE 44156

1. REFTEL DISCUSSED WITH ROBIN HOPE OF DEPARTMENT OF
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INDUSTRY MORNING OF FEBRUARY 22. WE ARE FORWARDING SUB-
STANCE OF REFTEL TO HOPE AND MAY GET A MORE CONSIDERED
REACTION LATER. HIS FIRST REACTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS:
A) U.S. POSITION SOUNDS "EXTREMELY SENSIBLE, VERY MUCH
ALONG LINES OF U.K. THINKING.
B) HMG ALSO PREPARED TO COMMIT SELF TO NEGOTIATIONS.
HOPE BELIEVES THIS IS LIKELY TO BE THE POSITION OF U.K.'

EC PARTNERS AS WELL.

C) HOPE SEES NO PROBLEM WITH THE FOUR ELEMENTS MENTIONED IN REFTEL CONTAINED IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

D) U.S. PROPOSAL OF THREE-STAGE APPROACH SEEMS TO BE A GOOD WORKING ARRANGEMENT.

E) HOPE NOTED CO-ORDINATION OF CONSUMER POSITION IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAS NOT HAPPENED YET AND CONSUMERS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN IN DISARRAY; THIS SHOULD BE SORTED OUT.

F) REGARDING TIMETABLE, HOPE'S OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION WAS THAT CONVENING NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE (AND PRESUMABLY FINISHING NEGOTIATIONS) BY END OF 1978 MIGHT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC. HE SAID WE CERTAINLY SHOULD RESIST ANY EFFORTS FOR A MORE OPTIMISTIC SCHEDULE THAN THIS AND FEARED THAT IF CONSUMERS MAKE TOO MUCH OF A SCHEDULE ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY THE U.S., THEY MIGHT OPEN THEMSELVES TO PRESSURE FROM PRODUCERS PARTICULARLY IF SLIPPAGE SEEMS LIKELY.

G) HOPE COULD SEE NO OBJECTION TO OECD FRAMEWORK FOR CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS BUT FELT THAT AN AD HOC GROUP WHICH WOULD INCLUDE USSR MIGHT BE BETTER. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD NO STRONG VIEWS ON THIS AND IT WAS ONLY HIS FIRST REACTION.

STREATOR

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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